



January 31, 2023

Spanish American Merchants Association, Inc - SAMA
95 Park Street
Hartford, CT 06106

To: Senator Bob Duff, Co-Chair of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Representative Julio Concepcion, Co-Chair of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Dear Senator Bob Duff and Representative Julio Concepcion,

This letter is to highly recommend for the reconfirmation of State Banking Commissioner the Honorable Jorge L. Perez. It has been an honor to have our organization work closely with the State Banking Commissioner. For the past seven years as the State Banking Commissioner Mr. Perez has personally taken an interest in making sure the services of his office are available to small and minority businesses across the state. He has steered successful lending partnerships with financial institutions to our small business members and community. He chaired four successful and prominent statewide events geared to small and minority owned businesses. In all, fifteen state financial institutions participated and met with over 325 locally based minority small businesses. The "matchmaker" events, prominently named "Meet the Bankers" were developed by him and were well received both by attending businesses in Hartford and New Haven. Many successful stories and outcomes have been reported from the participants.

Mr. Perez is the first commissioner to visit our community and meet with many of our small business owners. He also worked closely with SAMA and the SBA during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing his offices resources in making sure our small businesses had access to Federal PPP and EIDL funding through the financial system.

In closing, we at SAMA believe that trust in public service is earned by what benefits the community has gained by those who are willing to serve, and we believe that Mr. Perez has earned that trust and we are in full support for his reconfirmation.

Sincerely,

Angel L. Sierra
President

Julio Mendoza
Executive Director

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